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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Reaction <input type="text"/> to Western Broadcasts 2. Anti-West Propaganda 3. Attitude of the Soviet People to Their Government	DATE DISTR.	18 October 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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Reaction to Western Broadcasts

2. Source likes Munich Radio Center broadcasts by far the best because they have purpose and direction. Moreover, they give news and commentaries of direct interest to Soviet listeners. Source particularly likes the series, "Window on the World", which tells of the brilliant careers of Soviets in the West. He also likes "Under the Iron Heel of Communism", which illustrates the suppression of culture under Soviet rule. Although source did not know the identity of the man who broadcast from Berlin during the recent Four Power Conference, he liked this broadcaster, who knew what he was talking about and spoke with sincerity. Source found VOA from New York variable, sometimes very good and sometimes poor. Radio Liberation, in source's opinion, is good, but more limited than VOA from Munich. He thinks that BBC broadcasts in Russian are about 25 years out of date. They do not criticize the Soviet regime sharply enough; they are too conciliatory to the powers that be.
3. Source believes that VOA should do nothing to build up the illusion among the people in the Soviet Union that their lives will become better under the present regime. He does not believe that conditions will improve appreciably. The Soviet people know that Soviet promises of a better life may benefit a small group on the top level but will turn out to be just one more Soviet failure as far as the collective farm peasantry and the average worker are concerned.

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Anti-West Propaganda

4. The West should not hold conferences with the Soviets. Conferences, such as those at Berlin and at Geneva, merely give the Soviet propagandists a chance to claim that an understanding is being reached with the West and enable them to peddle their peace propaganda.

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5. Soviet propaganda against the United States has some effect, particularly among Soviet youth. However, although source was young at the time, he heard about the relief organization headed by Hoover after World War I. Source further said that anyone who knew about Lend-Lease or the work of UNRRA in the Ukraine knew that the help given was mostly American. Source is under the impression that anti-American propaganda is often misinterpreted and is taken to mean that the American Government is standing up for the Soviet people against the Soviet Government.

Attitude of the Soviet People toward the Soviet Government

6. Source estimates that a minimum of 70 and possibly a higher percent of the Soviet people are against the Government. All the collective farmers are against the system; millions of prisoners in labor camps are against it; all the workers except the "labor aristocracy" are against it. The Army reflects the feelings of the populace. Professional Army men of all ranks are very restive under the control of the MVD. Because of this, the Government uses Zhukov, who is popular with the Army, to increase its own popularity. Bulganin is regarded as a mere Party hack. Voroshilov is a joke as far as the Army is concerned. He is not regarded as a military man but as an "ignorant man of the Party". Vasilyevskiy is well-educated and talented, but he has been a willing tool of the Party too many times. Rokossovskiy has prestige among Army personnel and so has Konev.

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